

## Nature Working Group Top 25 Recommendations

FINAL RANK	Recommendation	Overlap with Other Working Groups	Responsible Agencies or Partners	Types of Actions Needed (policy change, legislation, funding, community, etc.)	Potential Indicators
1	[ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY/EDUCATION] The DC education system (pre K to university level, including public, private, and charter institutions) will incorporate environmental and sustainability education/literacy into the existing curriculum with a focus on community and outdoor components (i.e. schoolyard and backyard habitat workshops and certifications). Fully fund DC's Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP) and Healthy Schools Act. Include native plant production in new high school greenhouses in the ELP. When: after pilot phase, full implementation by 2016 Who: DCPS, DDOE, DDOT, DPR, DGS, local non-profits Target: pre K through university level students	All	DCPS, charter and private schools, all universities, education-focused non-profits (especially DCEEC); DDOE and DCPS for ELP; DC Council for Healthy Schools Act, City Council, DDOT, DPR, DGS	Education reform, U.S. Department of Education/OSSE for funding? Local allocated funds	Benchmark: By 2015, 100% of DC schools (public/charter/private) have schoolyard habitat workshops and certifications. By 2015, all universities in DC have incorporated sustainability principles (and training, where applicable) into existing curriculum. ELP is implemented and monitored; DDOE and DCPS held accountable for carrying out ELP; DC Council enforces Health Schools Act (?)
2	[INCREASING PERMEABLE SURFACES] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For all new construction (residential and non-residential): through the building permit process, all builders/construction projects in DC will adhere to the goal of increasing and maintaining permeable surfaces by 10% by 2020 and by 20% by 2030 (need to be ambitious goals).</li> <li>For all existing construction (residential and non-residential): expand and maintain permeable surfaces in the existing built environment through a District-wide depave campaign (immediately identify opportunities for removing pavement by neighborhood).</li> </ul>	Water, Built Environment	DGS (for District-owned projects), DCRA, OP, DDOE, DDOT, developers, property owners, BIDs	New zoning regulations; Projects review change; new regulations; local allocated funds for existing construction and public space de-paving and maintenance	Benchmark: By 2020, 10% increase in permeable area of new construction projects; by 2030, a 20% increase. For existing construction, the percent increase in permeable surfaces is an indicator. For both, a stewardship or maintenance program established.
3	[TREE CANOPY] Have DDOT increase the District's tree canopy to 40% using at least 250,000 appropriate native trees and protect and maintain existing trees through engagement of landowners including government departments, businesses and residents, by 2035 for the purpose of improving the health, enjoyment and well-being of the District's residents.	Water, Built Environment	DDOT (UFA), Casey Trees, DDOE	Tax incentives or refunds for planting trees, neighborhood fund drives	Count of trees planted per year with the goal of "x" # of trees planted per year on the goal of 40% canopy; annual tree coverage report by Casey Trees
4	[TERRESTRIAL HABITAT] Conserve, restore, and increase DC's terrestrial wildlife habitat by having DDOE, NPS, DPR, and DGS follow the DC Wildlife Action Plan to: 1) restore forest understory by replacing invasive plants with native plants and controlling the geese and deer population by 2023 (needs to be ambitious target); 2) increase grassland health by converting 80% of mowed space and 10% of rooftops to native wildflower meadow habitat (need to be ambitious targets); and 3) increase connectivity between habitats for the benefit of DC's wildlife and safe and responsible enjoyment of its human population. Conduct species vulnerability assessment. Inform decision making with climate impact information. Create management plans.	Water, Built Environment	DDOE, NPS, DPR, DGS, Possibly OP and GIS offices for 3)	Cross-agencies agreement; plan for enforcement; sufficient staff to handle; new mapping	Number of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species in the District. Number of nonmigratory geese and deer. Wildflower coverage.
5	[AQUATIC HABITAT] Conserve, restore, and increase DC's aquatic wildlife habitat by having DDOE, DPR NPS and USGS follow the DC Wildlife Action Plan to: 1) remove all invasive plant and animal species (including geese by implementing a Goose Management Plan) from wetlands by 2023; 2) restore current wetlands (mudflats, underwater grass beds, and vernal pools/ephemeral wetlands) by 2017; 3) restore DC's natural stream channels as appropriate/feasible; and 4) ensure no net loss of wetland areas and expand current wetland areas where possible.	Water, Built Environment	DDOE, DPR, NPS and USGS	Develop an annual implementing plan for the DC Wildlife Action Plan by DDOE and NPS. Funding for invasive plant and animal species. Funding for stream channel restoration. Funding for wetland restoration and expansion by USGS.	Number of nonmigratory geese. Wetland areas in acres. Percent of stream channels restored.

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6	[RFK] Revitalize RFK Stadium parking lots into safe, enjoyable, and usable green space When: 2017 Who: federal government (NPS, NCPC)	Water, Built Environment	NPS, NCPC	Developing a plan for RFK Stadium. Funding for the plan.	Completed green space projects
7	[SAFE ACCESS TO PARKS] Promote safe and responsible connectivity between people and nature - Increase access to parks: signage, trails - Increase and maintain safe and enjoyable park space - Promote safe access - Increase the proximity of parks to all residents within a 10-minute walk - Decrease “park deserts” - Mapping of parks - Promote safe and responsible park use and stewardship (i.e. stay on marked trails, pick up your trash, don’t feed the animals, etc.) When: 2017 Who: NPS, DPR, Office of Planning, DDOT, Washington Parks and People, Rock Creek Conservancy	Transportation, Built Environment	NPS, DPR, OP, DDOT, Washington Parks and People, DC GIS, Rock Creek Conservancy	City-wide summit, new access plan, champion to lead cross-sector collaboration; physical design changes to intersections and roadways; construction of new parks in park deserts; Safe Routes to Parks program (based on Safe Routes to Schools)	Benchmark: 100% of residents within a 10-minute walk to a park (1/2 mile) by way of a safe route.
8	[WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY] Enhance and restore wildlife corridors. Locate which of the open existing spaces must be reserved for corridors to provide species movement pathways for migration and for species to seek refuge, move to cooler locations, etc. Create wildlife connectivity map to establish a baseline and then update at regular intervals as activities to increase connectivity are implemented.	Water, Built Environment	Per Terrestrial Habitat, Non-profits such as City Wildlife, NWF, National Geographic, DDOE Ecologists	Designate initiative lead at DDOE/OP/non-profit partner; fund and staff	
9	[INCREASING GREEN SPACE] Require developers to fund or provide for green space by Green Area Ratio (GAR) and natural space set-asides in new developments that would help create or maintain wildlife habitat and corridors When: 2015 Who: Office of Planning/Zoning/DCRA	Built Environment	OP, DDOE, DC GIS, DCRA	Zoning regulations, Comprehensive Plan policy	Number of completed new operational projects, with documented evidence of new green habitat and natural green space. Benchmark every 3 years.
10	[SPECIES/BIODIVERSITY] No net (further) loss of species and biodiversity. Increase native populations of fish, birds, and other wildlife. When: 2015 Wildlife Action Plan Review Who: DDOE, NPS, NGOs, ANCs	Water	DDOE, NPS, NGOs, ANCs		
11	[COMMUNITY HABITAT CERTIFICATION] DC obtains community habitat certification]		National Wildlife Foundation		
12	[POLICY/LEGAL] Promote an integration of policy and legal activities to value the protection of nature		DDOE, Office of Planning/Zoning, City Council	Legislative directive from City Council; Mayor's Order; impact analysis	

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13	[URBAN GARDENS/NATIVE PLANTS] Support urban gardening - Convert abandoned/vacant lots into urban agriculture and gardens - Establish native plant nurseries at DCPS high school greenhouses When: 2017 Who: NPS, DPR, neighborhood/partner groups	Food	NPS, DPR, DCPS, Charter Schools, UDC, DCRA, DHCD, Dep Mayor for Economic Development, Non-Profit partners; private land owners with fallow vacant land; DCBIA	Identify District lead for urban gardening and grant authority; fund; staff. Access supporting funding from foundations?	
14	[AWARENESS] Execute awareness campaign - PSA's - Volunteerism - PR about what DC is doing and existing regulations - Promote positive aspects of outdoor recreation and safe park use Safe us of parks (signage, rules, etc.) Safety of parks (maintenance, patrols, etc.)	All	Cross-agency Office of Sustainability; DDOE		
15	[LIGHTS OUT] Implement "Lights Out" program	Energy?	DDOE, DGS, DCBIA and building owners association; GSA and other federal agencies; Private building owners; City Wildlife, Media	Awareness campaign, facilities manager behavior change, lights watch volunteers. Possibly changes in city ordinances.	Number of federal and private buildings that have implemented a "Lights Out" program
16	[NATURAL SURVEYS] Engage residents in natural surveying activities, such as BioBlitz and bird counts, to (1) increase community ownership of DC's natural resources, and (2) gather trackable data about DC's wildlife health.	Water			
17	[ZONING] Establish zoning designations for the protection of natural areas and wildlife habitat.	Water, Built Environment	Office of Planning/Zoning, DDOE	identify agency lead, working group. Examine practices of other cities.	Amended zoning map and regulations

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18	<p>[GREEN SPACE MAINTENANCE] Ensure that the District’s greenspaces and green infrastructure is managed and maintained in a sustainable manner by creating a structured and sustainable educated workforce to maximize effectiveness and protection.</p> <p>1. By 2014, every government agency that has responsibility for public greenspace areas will have a dedicated department and/or one dedicated city employee to oversee greenspace/infrastructure management.</p> <p>2. By 2013, a “Green 311” call line/website will be implemented for reporting greenspace public safety concerns. Confirmation/call back will be assured for each reported incident.</p> <p>3. By 2013, an updated and current maintenance schedule for parks and public greenspaces will be accessible to the public.</p> <p>4. By 2013, green infrastructure on government/federal property will have an updated and current maintenance schedule/scheduled maintenance plan.</p> <p>5. By 2014, government agencies will be encouraged to partner with non-profits, CSOSA, volunteer organizations, CSO’s, DCPS and college community service groups to help with greenspace maintenance.</p> <p>6. By 2016, job training programs/college/high school curriculum will be required to educate and provide certification for green infrastructure maintenance and related green job skills.</p> <p>7. ANC offices should become conduits for reporting maintenance issues.</p> <p>Actors: DGS, DPR, DPW, DDOE, DDOT, DCPS, CSOSA, NPS, AWS, ECC, SCC, Anacostia River Keeper, Groundwork Anacostia USA, Washington Parks and People, Casey Trees, ANC’s, BIDs, etc.</p>	Green Economy	City Council, Deputy Mayor's offices, DDOE, DCRA, OP, DPR, DGS, Finance Office, DPW, DDOT, DCPS, CSOSA, NPS, AWS, ECC, SCC, Anacostia River Keeper, Groundwork Anacostia USA, Washington Parks and People, Casey Trees, ANC’s, BIDs, etc.	City Council legislation, Mayor's Order; assessment of maintenance issues, maintenance plan(s); staffing to implement	
19	<p>[PROTECT MATURE TREES] Identify the city's most valuable and vulnerable mature trees and develop protection and maintenance plan, and implement.</p>		Casey Trees, DDOT, DDOE, NPS	Create parallel protection and restoration program to Riversmart, but with emphasis on stabilization and protection of trees in danger zones. Include street trees, privately held trees, local and federal parklands. Align with terrestrial habitat agenda (trees are ecosystems). Funding. Expert and citizen surveys, professional and citizen forester volunteers; Green Summer Job participants	
20	<p>[FEDERAL-DC PARTNERSHIPS] Working off the CapitalSpace partnership initiative, DC Government builds a working relationship with the federal government to move forward on projects such as the RFK revitalization and Oxon Run Park improvements.</p>		DDOE, NCPC, NPS	Political commitment by NCPS, DDOE, DPR, NPS to CapitalSpace initiative.	Functioning CapitalSpace program. Progress on RFK revitalization on Oxon Run Park improvements.
21	<p>[INVASIVE WILDLIFE] Control invasive plants, geese, deer, and fish through improved management. Who: DC Fisheries and Wildlife, NPS, community volunteers, non-profits</p>	Water	DDOE, NPS, Humane Society, City Wildlife		

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22	[SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS] Increase the focus on sustainability in both local DC communities and the DC Government - Create a “Sustainability Secretary” position in all ANC Single Member Districts; promote with neighborhood associations - Appoint “Sustainability Councilor" (Office of the City Administrator)	All	City Council and individual ANCs	Use the Sustainability Secretary in ANC SMDs to promote and provide greater access to city "green" initiatives and programs as well as take suggestions/ideas from individual ANCs to the city-wide "Sustainability Councilor" for presentation to the City Council, DDOE, Planning, etc.	Within 3 months of the new ANC session, each SMD must have 1 Sustainability Secretary. All of the Sustainability Secretaries would have to meet at least once a quarter to discuss sustainability issues in their SMDs. From this group, one Sustainability Secretary would be elected to represent the Ward and report to the Sustainability Councilor in the Office of the City Administrator.
23	[STEWARDSHIP] Engage youth and community members as stewards of their local parks and natural spaces through education, volunteerism, and employment, especially in low-income and underserved communities.		DC Area Faith Ecology Group and area churches/synagogues/mosques		Five actions taken annually by a coalition of these institutions in direct support of the DC Sustainable DC NATURE working group
24	[OXON RUN PARK] Examine the feasibility of transforming the Oxon Run Park into a world-class park.		DPR, NPS	Developing feasibility study.	Feasibility study by NPS and DPR completed.
25	[WILDLIFE REHAB CENTER] Establish a wildlife rehab center in DC.		City Wildlife, Humane Society, DDOE, DOH, Nonprofit and Foundation partners	Ensure current facility in development is financially supported. Assign professional vets and volunteers. promote local rehab program	